

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3589

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 0561

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, PE

SUBJECT: VICE MINISTER OF FINANCE COMMENTS ON TRA

REFS: LIMA 472, 434

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS JANUARY 21, VICE MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, ROBERTO KEIL ROJAS, TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS OF GOP'S CONTINUING CONCERN OVER EFFECT OF TRA ON PERU. KEIL SAID HE REALIZED FULL WELL THAT TRA CONTAINS BENEFICIAL FEATURES, SUCH AS AUTHORIZATION TO REDUCE/ELIMINATE TARIFFS ON NTBS AS WELL AS GSP, BUT EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN OVER PRACTICAL EFFECT OF LAW ON PERU'S EXPORTS TO U.S. HE NOTES SPECIFICALLY THAT PERU NEEDS TO KNOW PRECISE EFFECTS OF GSP, TARIFF AND NTB REDUCTIONS, AND COUNTER-VAILING DUTY PROVISIONS WHICH MIGHT WELL HAVE A CLEAR IMPACT ON FUTURE EXPANSION OF PERUVIAN TRADE TO U.S. MARKET. HE EMPHASIZED SPECIFICALLY THAT PERU EMPLOYS A SUBSIDY SYSTEM TO PROMOTE EXPORTS WHICH COULD POTENTIALLY BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF TRA. HE ALSO COMMENTED DIRECTLY THAT GIVEN INTEREST IN TRA WITHIN GOP, SECRETARY KISSINGER COULD EXPECT THAT TRA WOULD BE ABOUT "THE ONLY TOPIC" (SIC) TO BE DISCUSSED DURING SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO LIMA. HE ADDED THAT THE SECRETARY HOPEFULLY WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS

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IN DETAIL FULL RAMIFICATIONS OF TRA FOR PERU SINCE TRA

IS OF SUCH VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THIS COUNTRY.

2. KEIL SAID THAT THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, AS WELL AS MINISTERS OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND COMMERCE, HAS UNDERTAKEN STUDY OF LAW, AND WHEN STUDY IS COMPLETED IT MIGHT BE WELL FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC POINTS WITH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES, AS WELL AS IN CONTEXT OF OTHER ON-GOING DISCUSSIONS WITHIN GATT AND OAS. EMBASSY OFFICERS VOLUNTEERED TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE IN REFERRING TO WASHINGTON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FROM ANY GOP SOURCE AND SAID WE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS GOP CONCERNS AT ANY TIME.

3. COMMENT: KEIL, RANKING CIVIL SERVANT IN MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, IS AN EXTREMELY ABLE ECONOMIST WHO BOVIOUSLY WAS REFLECTING LEVEL OF POLITICAL CONCERN OVER TRA WITHIN HIGHER COUNCILS OF GOP. HE IS WELL AWARE THAT TRA'S EFFECT MAY NOT BE FELT FOR SOME TIME AND THAT MTN WILL BE COMPLEX AND LENGTHY PROCESS, BUT NONETHELESS FELT IT IMPERATIVE TO STRESS TO US PERU'S SUBSTANTIAL CONCERN OVER TRA. WHILE WE DOUBT THAT TRA WILL BE SOLE SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY, IT WILL CERTAINLY BE A CENTRAL ISSUE TO WHICH THE GP WILL ADDRESS ITSELF AND MAY CONCEIVABLY EXPECT CONCRETE ANSWERS ABOUT SPECIFIC EFFECTS THAT WE ARE NOT YET IN A POSITION TO FURNISH.
BARNEBEY

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